

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)- Update 1/29/2021

PROVIDER TYPE: Primary Care Providers Specialty Care Providers
LINE OF BUSINESS: Seaside Select Plan to Plan

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

A new variant strain of SARS-CoV-2 that contains a series of mutations has been described in the United Kingdom (UK) and become highly prevalent in London and southeast England. Although more study is needed, based on these mutations, this variant strain may be more rapidly transmissible than other circulating strains of SARS-CoV-2. Scientists are working to learn more about this variant to better understand how easily it might be transmitted and whether currently authorized vaccines will protect people against it.

At this time, there is no evidence that this variant causes more severe illness or increased risk of death or that available vaccines will not be as effective. Information regarding the virologic, epidemiologic, and clinical characteristics of the variant are rapidly emerging. CDC, in collaboration with other public health agencies, is monitoring the situation closely and will communicate new information as it becomes available.

This variant, referred to as “SARS-CoV-2 VOC 202012/01” or “B.1.17” has not yet been identified through sequencing efforts in the United States. However, as most US infections have not been sequenced, the variant could already be in the United States without having been detected. For more information, see CDC’s Implications of the Emerging SARS-CoV-2 Variant VOC 202012/01.

Key Message for Healthcare Providers:

- A new SARS-CoV-2 variant strain has been reported in the United Kingdom.
- While the SARS-CoV-2 virus mutates regularly, the rapid rise in prevalence of this strain in parts of the UK is concerning.
- At this time, there is no evidence that this variant is associated with increased disease severity or that COVID-19 vaccines will offer less protection against this variant.

Resources for providers, including travel alert posters and a checklist for clinicians managing patients who may have 2019-nCoV, are available at <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/nCorona2019.htm>

Reporting

Los Angeles County DPH Acute Communicable Disease Control:

- Weekdays 8:30am–5pm: call 213-240-7941.
- After-hours: call 213-974-1234 and ask for the physician on call.

Long Beach Health and Human Services:

- Weekdays 8am-5pm: call 562-570-4302.
- After hours: call the Duty Officer at 562 500-5537.

Pasadena Public Health Department:

- Weekdays 8am-5pm (closed every other Friday): call 626-744-6089.
- After hours: call 626-744-6043.

For the latest Center of Disease Control information about the COVID-19, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>.

For travel health information, visit <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/noticescovid19>